

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Tragic Waste

By Walter E. Myer

WHEN you shovel coal into the furnace it burns, produces heat, which warms the house. But all the coal doesn't burn and furnish heat as effectively as it might. The heating of houses involves a great deal of waste. The *World Book Encyclopedia* says, "The ordinary hand-fired furnace used in homes is only about 45 per cent efficient; that is, it uses only that part (less than half) of the heat available in the coal."

"In industry," we are told, "where coal is converted to mechanical power, a further loss takes place. On the average, the efficiency of railroad locomotives is only about 11 or 12 per cent; and of electric power plants, about 25 per cent."

Much of the fuel which should be heating homes, operating engines and turning the wheels of industry is literally "going up in smoke." The waste of resources, energy and power is a serious national problem. The illustrations which have been given present only a small part of the picture.

Especially tragic is the waste of human energy. One can see evidence of it on every hand. A person, young or old, may fail to reach the top or even approach it. The reason may be that he is doing only a fraction of what he might do. His abilities may be only partly devoted to worthwhile effort. He is wasting power. Like the coal used to drive an engine he may be putting only 11 or 12 per cent of his energy and power to effective use. Or, like the coal shoveled into the furnace, he may be wasting over half his powers.

I have in mind a high school student who displayed evidence of marked ability. His relatives and friends considered him brilliant. His teachers said he was capable of superior work. But he didn't "deliver the goods." He excelled only in tennis, his favorite sport. His grades were poor to fair. There was clearly a leak somewhere. He was failing to live up to his possibilities.

Last fall this student managed somehow to throw off the shackles of mediocrity. He closed some of the leaks. He quit wasting time. He set new and higher standards for himself.

The self-imposed discipline brought immediate results. The young fellow continued to lead in his field of sport. In addition, he finished the term at the head of his class.

I know this student quite well but I do not know what it was that inspired him to face about, to check waste of effort and to put his latent powers to use. I see only outward results. It is harder to understand and explain the inner urges which brought the change.

I am sure, however, that other students, each in his own way, can do what this one did. Each student has before him a job of human engineering. Each one needs to find out how to use in greater measure the abilities and powers which he so often wastes.



WILL THE COMMUNIST ARMIES of China capture Formosa, too?

Far Eastern Puzzle

Victories of Mao Tse-tung's Chinese Communists Present Big Problems for Nations Throughout the World

FOR a long time, our country has delayed making important decisions about the Far East. After it became apparent that Chiang Kai-shek—even with a great deal of U. S. equipment—could not defeat the Chinese Communists, we adopted a wait-and-see policy. As one Washington official explained, we were "waiting for the dust to settle" before deciding how to deal with China and the rest of the Orient.

Now the dust is settling. Mao Tse-tung's Communist forces today control practically all of China's mainland, and the civil war in that nation is drawing to a close. The United States is therefore brought face to face with a number of urgent questions. In Washington, discussion of the complicated Asiatic problem centers around the following issues:

(1) Should President Truman have decided to bolster Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist forces, now taking refuge on the island of Formosa?

(2) Would it, on the other hand, be wise for us to recognize Mao Tse-tung's Communist regime as the lawful government of China?

(3) What attitude should the United States adopt toward the Chinese Communists' effort to represent their country in the United Nations?

(4) What can now be done to keep

communism from making still further gains in the Orient?

Let us examine each of these questions in greater detail.

Chiang and the island of Formosa. Lying about 90 miles southeast of the Chinese mainland, Formosa has become the refuge of Chiang Kai-shek's battered Nationalist forces. In addition to its normal population of more than 6 million people, the small island must now support large numbers of Nationalist troops and civilian refugees.

Land, sea, and air forces of moderate size are at Chiang's disposal, and he has money with which to purchase equipment. However, unless some foreign nation sends troops to help him, the Communists are almost certain to take Formosa eventually.

Early this month President Truman announced that no U. S. forces would be used to support the Nationalists. He made this decision in spite of the fact that certain prominent congressmen and others were demanding heavy aid for Chiang in defense of Formosa.

Critics insist that Truman has made a serious mistake. They regard Formosa's location as strategic. Former President Herbert Hoover and Republican Senator Robert Taft have said that our Navy should be used, if neces-

(Concluded on pages 2 and 3)

Congress Studies Budget Requests

President's Proposals Arouse Debate as Federal Outlays Are Planned

CONGRESS is now considering President Truman's recommendation that it provide approximately 42½ billion dollars to run the government for the 12-month period beginning July 1, 1950, and ending June 30, 1951.

This period is known as the fiscal (bookkeeping) year 1951. Since it takes some months to draw up plans, have them approved, and get funds to carry them out, the President always makes his proposals to Congress about six months before the start of the fiscal year.

At the same time that the President submitted his recommendations for spending, he estimated that the government's income for the 12-month period would be slightly less than 37½ billion dollars. Thus, according to Mr. Truman's figures, we shall spend more than we take in, and will go "in the red" by about 5 billion dollars.

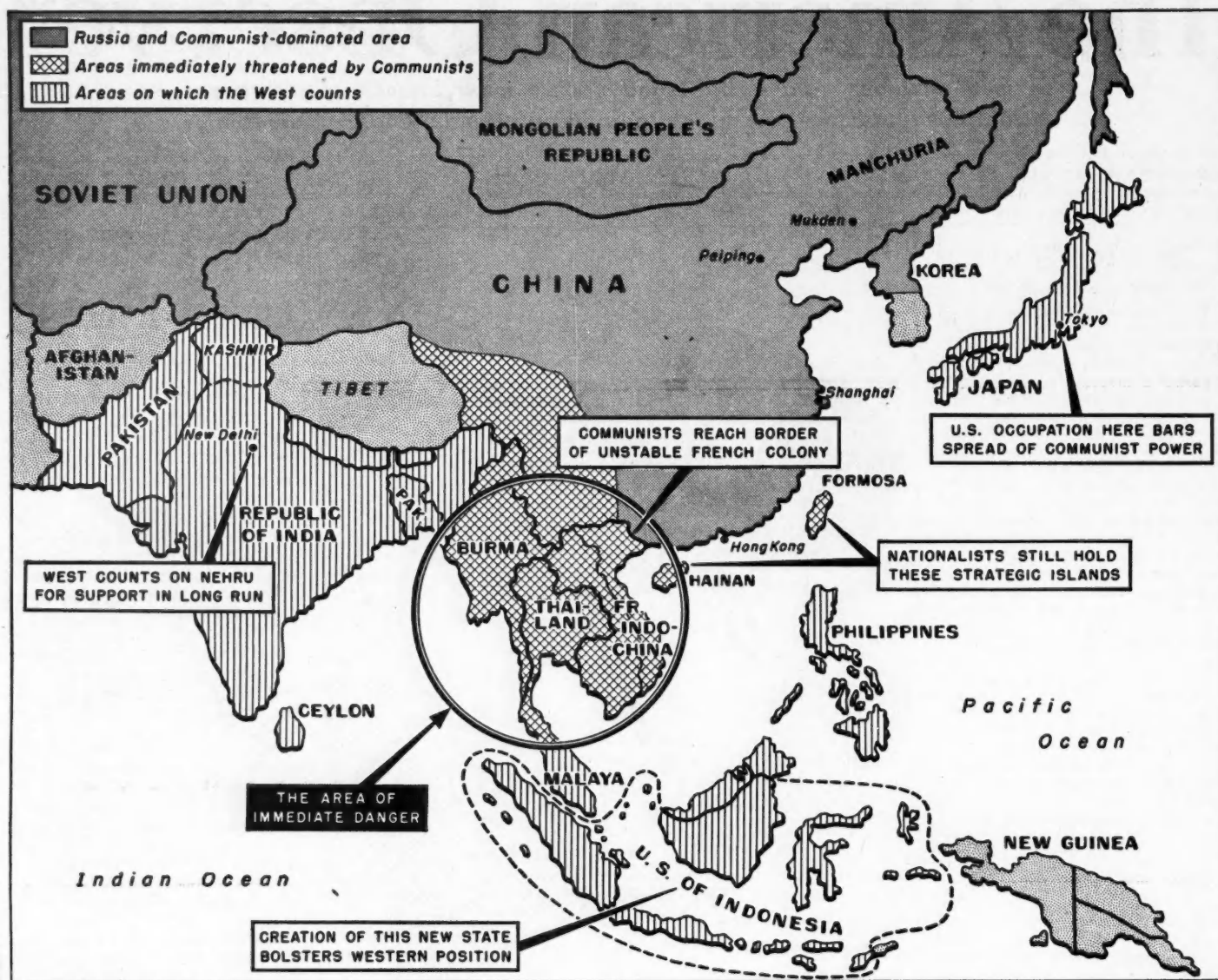
The estimate of income and expenses of the government for the coming year is known as the federal budget. In drawing up the budget, the President, aided by his advisers, looks over the activities in which the government is engaging and decides which ones should be continued. He also decides what new activities—if any—the government should take part in.

The President then estimates the amounts of money which he feels the government should spend for these various activities. He also lists the sums which he thinks the government should collect through taxes to finance its operations.

The estimates are submitted to Congress each year shortly after the lawmakers convene in January. Congress (Concluded on page 6)



THE 1951 BUDGET BOOK uses 1,198 pages to tell the story of government expenditures for the year. It is 100 pages larger than the one for 1950 and weighs 6 pounds.



THE SITUATION in Asia today. The dotted line around the islands indicates the chain making up the United States of Indonesia. The line running through Indo-China from north to south separates the French colony, on the left, from the semi-independent state of Viet Nam. As this paper goes to press, the Communists are attacking Hainan.

Chinese Communist Sweep Raises Major Issues

(Concluded from page 1)

sary, to keep the island out of Communist hands.

President Truman and his supporters reply that it would be very foolish "to send our troops into a Chinese civil war." Such action in defense of Formosa, the Truman administration feels, would be regarded by overwhelming numbers of Asiatics as unjustified interference in Far Eastern affairs. There is the possibility, moreover, that it would lead to a world-wide conflict.

This dispute over the wisdom of President Truman's decision concerning Formosa will continue for a long time, but the policy he has set forth will probably not be changed. On other highly controversial phases of the China problem, though, decisions are still to be made.

Recognition of Mao Tse-tung. Several countries, including Great Britain, have recognized Mao's regime as the lawful government of China. Britain took the step this month, largely in the hope that it would help her to protect her huge investments in Chinese enterprises.

The United States has continued to treat Chiang's group as the official Chinese government. Our Ambassador to China deals with the Nationalist

officials in Formosa; and the Chinese Ambassador in Washington speaks for Chiang Kai-shek.

Many Americans think that the time has come when we should switch our formal recognition and diplomatic connections from Chiang to Mao. Their argument runs as follows:

"Regardless of how much we dislike the Chinese Communists, it is a fact that they control most of China's territory and nearly all of her 460 million people. If we are to have official dealings in China, Mao's regime is the government with which we must negotiate.

"Recognition of a government does not necessarily indicate approval of it. We dislike dictatorship and totalitarianism in all forms; yet we recognize numerous dictatorial governments. One of these, for instance, is Russia's Communist government.

"Chiang Kai-shek's regime is now practically powerless, and it is unpopular even among many Chinese who dislike the Communists. We can no longer hope to accomplish anything by keeping our connections with it. We have nothing to lose by recognizing Mao, and we might gain.

"Although Mao has talked repeatedly of his strong friendship with the

Soviet Union, and of his hostility toward us, he is no mere Soviet puppet. As he tackles China's difficult economic problems, his notions on foreign policy may change. If China needs goods that we can supply better than can any other nation—machinery for instance—Mao may eventually become less hostile toward the United States. Recognition of his government might help encourage such a development."

People who oppose our dealing with the Chinese Communists say:

"There is no indication that Mao Tse-tung will ever be anything but an opponent of the United States. True, he is likely to accept favors and courtesies if they are offered, but in case of a showdown he will side against us and with the Soviet Union.

"The Communists have already shown how they feel toward us. They have arrested U. S. diplomatic officials and have seized American government property in Peiping. As a result we have recalled all our officials from Communist-held territory. We should continue our policy of refusing to deal with the Mao group.

"On several occasions prior to World War II, the democratic nations of Europe yielded to Hitler's wishes; but their yielding only whetted Germany's

appetite and increased her strength. War, not peace, was the eventual result. A display of friendliness toward a Fascist or Communist dictator does not pay, because he—and the rest of the world—view it as weakness.

"Recognition of the Chinese Communists would be a cruel blow against Chiang Kai-shek, our World War II ally. He deserves at least our moral support so long as he seeks to maintain a government and continue his fight against communism."

As we go to press, the U. S. State Department has not given any clear indication of what it plans to do.

China and the United Nations. China is one of the five permanent members of the UN's 11-member Security Council. As such, she ranks with Britain, France, Russia, and the United States. China's seats in the Council and the Assembly have been occupied by the Nationalists, but Mao Tse-tung's government is seeking to gain possession of them. The prospect of switching Chinese representatives in the various UN agencies has raised difficult problems.

To unseat Chiang Kai-shek's Security Council delegate, the votes of seven Council members are required. A recent Chinese Communist demand

for such action has received strong Russian support. In this country, opinions have differed on the proper stand for the United States to take.

Some observers feel that it would be a severe blow against the democratic countries to bring the Chinese Communists into the UN. Others point out that the Communist nations, even though joined by Mao's government, would still be greatly outnumbered in all UN bodies.

Helping China's neighbors resist communism. Although the Communists have practically finished their conquest of China, our government hopes to prevent the growth of Communist power in other parts of the Orient. Toward this end it is preparing a program of economic, and perhaps military, aid for China's southern and eastern neighbors.

In some respects, this effort is to resemble the recovery and military aid programs that we are carrying on in Europe, though it will not be on so large a scale. It is intended to build up the strength of existing non-Communist governments.

Among countries likely to receive help are the following: Southern Korea; the Philippines; the newly established United States of Indonesia; the French-supervised Viet Nam state in Indo-China; and Japan, which would receive only economic aid.

In one way or another, we shall probably cooperate with the non-Communist governments of still other nations, such as Thailand. The role of gigantic India, meanwhile, is not clear. Her Prime Minister Nehru strongly opposes Communists in his own land, but he is not anxious to take sides in the present world struggle between Moscow and her adversaries.

The Oriental peoples with whom we are dealing hate the thought of being dominated by foreigners. Communist leaders in the various Asian lands will not be popular if they seem to be under Soviet control; and neither will democratic leaders if they seem to be under ours. In general, the Asiatics will be anxious to cooperate with us only so long as we avoid any appearance of exerting pressure on them. Experts on Oriental affairs tell us emphatically that U. S. officials must keep this fact in mind when drawing up policies concerning the Far East.

In a recent speech to Washington newspapermen, U. S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson pointed out that the Soviet Union has taken a great



SENATORS Connally and Taft. Connally supports President Truman's decision in Formosa; Taft criticizes it.

deal of power in Manchuria and other sections of northern China. Such action, he says, will cause people in China and Southeast Asia to feel considerable resentment toward the Russians. Our job, the Secretary feels, is to demonstrate clearly that we—unlike Russia—are on the side of real freedom for the Oriental countries. He says we want them to make their own plans "and even their own mistakes."



VISITORS from the Far East. Nadira Aziz of Pakistan, and Tarani Prasad Pradhan of Nepal, in the picture on the left, and Yadana Nat Mai of Burma, on the right, are members of a group of students visiting our country as guests of the New York Herald Tribune.



PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS PHOTOS

Our Asiatic Visitors

Young People from 16 Countries in Middle East and Asia Are in U. S. for Discussions with Students Here

HIGH school students in Dallas, Texas, are now playing host to 25 young people from 16 countries in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. The visitors are student delegates to the fifth annual *New York Herald Tribune* Forum for High Schools to be held on March 4 in New York City. Flown to this country earlier in the month, the young people are now in the midst of a tour arranged for them by the Civil Air Patrol.

The delegates were selected through an essay contest and interviews conducted by the United States Cultural Affairs Officer and the Ministry of Education in each country. Although they have widely varying backgrounds, the visitors have this in common: they are eager to learn about the United States, and to tell American students about their own countries.

Leaving New York yesterday morning after several weeks in that area, the young people were flown to Nashville, Tennessee. There they had lunch with students from the University of Tennessee, and then continued on to Texas. They will be in Dallas for one week. Accompanying them are two American students from New York.

On January 29 the party will fly to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and for three days will inspect the great dams, power plants, and other installations of the Tennessee Valley Authority. On February 1 the group will fly to Washington, D. C.

During their three-day visit in the nation's capital, the young people will be guests of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. Among other activities they will visit the White House and the Capitol, and will be received at the embassies of their native lands.

The delegates' ten-week stay in the United States will be climaxed on March 4 by their appearance as speakers at the *Herald Tribune* Forum. There they will join with American students in discussing "The World We Want" and will also give their impressions of America.

During their stay in the New York area, the visitors will be guests of American high school students, many

of whom are readers of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. The delegates will move to different communities every two weeks. Immediately after the Forum, they will be flown back to their home countries. Overseas transportation is being furnished free by Pan American World Airways and Trans World Airline.

Among the visitors are representatives from most of the lands of the Middle East and Southeast Asia. All of them speak English. Nearly all of them had first-hand experience in the war and are looking forward to careers in government, the arts, or literature.

Burma selected a boy whose father is a former Prime Minister of a northern Burmese state and a girl who is the daughter of an Australian father and a Burmese princess. The girl was seriously injured in a Rangoon air-raid in December 1941 when the people with whom she was sitting were killed.

As a first attempt to explain Burma to America, both delegates from that country arrived in Burmese costume. They have brought no Western clothes with them.

A 17-year-old youth who fought with the Republican student army against the Dutch in his country's struggle for independence is one of the Indonesian delegates. He is the son of the personal physician of Indonesian President Soekarno.

Both of the Israeli delegates served their newly founded country during the Arab-Jewish conflict. Victor Ziv interrupted his final year in high school to join the Israeli Army and was wounded in the street fighting at Haifa. Ada Kleinman served as a messenger between military positions in the outskirts of Tel Aviv.

The two delegates from the Philippines had grim wartime experiences. One of them—with his family—had to roam the jungles for five months.

The other youthful visitors from Asia and the Middle East have equally interesting backgrounds. We shall tell more about this whole group, and how its members feel on world problems, in the next few issues of the paper.

—By HOWARD O. SWEET.

Readers Say—

In my opinion, most of our unions have become too powerful for the good of the country. They exert undue pressure on our government and are often infiltrated with Communists. Unions, of course, are necessary in our society, but if we are to maintain high levels of production, we must control the labor unions.

JOHN MARTIN,
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

★ ★ ★

Though we should continue our policy of containing communism, I favor carrying on as much trade as possible with Russia. By buying large quantities of products from that country and by selling her non-military items that she needs, we may eventually reach a settlement with the Soviet government.

GORDON FLACK,
Kansas City, Missouri

★ ★ ★

I support the position of big business in the present controversy over monopoly and government regulation of free enterprise. Big business has neither harmed its smaller competitors nor prevented them from growing.

Furthermore, where would small business be if it were not for the extensive research carried on by our large corporations? Such research has benefited big and little concerns alike.

MARY DELANEY,
Williston, North Dakota

★ ★ ★

Big business, to my mind, should be carefully regulated. Because of



some of the practices of very large corporations, small business is being driven to the wall and the trend to monopoly is being increased. If the United States is to remain a land of opportunity, we must curb companies that become too powerful.

DAVID HILLING,
Williston, North Dakota

★ ★ ★

The possibility of a Japanese peace treaty is now being discussed in various parts of the world, but the Japanese people are particularly interested in knowing what the United States thinks about such an agreement. I imagine that some Americans still have a bad opinion of the Japanese, though others are quite friendly. In my opinion, it is the duty of the Japanese to make the outside world understand their country.

YOHINOBU SEKIGUCHI,
Kamagawa Prefecture,
Japan

(Editor's Note: The above letter was originally sent to Carol H. Waldbusser, of Lindenhurst, New York. Our thanks to Carol for forwarding it to us for publication.)

The Story of the Week

Ski Championships

For the first time since they were started years ago by the International Ski Federation, the world ski championships will be held this year in the United States. The jumping and cross-country events are to be conducted at Lake Placid, New York, from January 29 through February 5. The slalom and downhill contests will be held from February 13 through the 19th at Aspen, Colorado.

It was decided to hold the championships in the U. S. this year because of the great growth in the popularity of skiing in this country. In the middle 1930's, about a million persons took part in skiing in various sections



SKIING is the "King of Winter Sports" for many thousands of Americans, and for people in mountainous countries throughout the world.

of the nation. Today, there are around 4 million skiing enthusiasts, many of whom spend their annual vacations at ski resorts.

Because of the increased interest in skiing here, Americans are gradually becoming as adept in the sport as Europeans. Such men and women as Torger Tøkle, Alf Engen, Andrea Mead and Gretchen Fraser are known throughout the world for their skiing skill. Gretchen Fraser was the winner of the special slalom championship at the 1948 winter Olympics, which were held at St. Moritz, Switzerland.

In the early years of skiing in the United States, most American skiers took part in jumping and cross-country events. Now many participate also in slalom and downhill contests. In the slalom, a skier descends a slope in a zigzag fashion, following a path that is marked by posts separated from each other at prescribed distances. In downhill skiing, the performer descends an extremely steep decline in a fairly straight line. The object of slalom, downhill, and cross-country skiing is to reach a certain point at the bottom of the slope in as little time as possible. The object of jumping is to demonstrate form as well as to travel the greatest distance before "hitting the powder."

Fight Against Polio

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis is scheduled to conclude its current March of Dimes drive January 31. Before that date, efforts will have been made to raise funds from

all sections of the country and from people in all walks of life. The goal of the Foundation this year is 52 million dollars, a large portion of which will be spent on the treatment of people who were afflicted with polio last year but who still need care.

The money collected during the annual March of Dimes is used for two main purposes. One is to provide medical treatment for those who are stricken with infantile paralysis. The other is to carry on research into the nature and possible cure of the disease.

During 1949, about 41,000 individuals were reported to have been stricken with polio. Of this number, a great many fully recovered, thanks to the aid provided them by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. To continue its vital work, this organization needs your financial support. Don't fail it or the thousands of polio victims who depend so urgently on it for assistance!

"The Great Rupert"

Jimmy Durante has made a movie in which he "co-stars" with a fabulous little squirrel. Unlike the mule in "Francis," which we reviewed last week, the squirrel does not talk, but he does perform a number of exploits that should keep audiences in almost continuous laughter.

The squirrel's name—Rupert—is also part of the name of the movie—"The Great Rupert." Rupert is a hungry creature that is willing to go anywhere for nourishment. As a result of his great desire for food, he wanders one day into the house that belongs to Jimmy Durante's landlord. What he finds there and what happens to his discovery changes the lives of all the people in the picture in a very unexpected fashion.

As Rupert's "co-star" in the movie, Durante plays the part of a vaudeville player who is down on his luck. His wife is played by Queenie Smith while Terry Moore is cast as his daughter. The romantic interest in the movie is provided by Miss Moore and Tom Drake.

Color Television

The Columbia Broadcasting System recently presented the first color television program ever to be seen by the general public. The showing was conducted in Washington, D. C., where the Federal Communications Commission has been holding hearings on the question of color television.

Officials of CBS have asked the FCC for permission to broadcast color TV on a commercial basis, just as the company now broadcasts black-and-white TV. The Radio Corporation of America and other firms want the FCC to postpone a decision on the matter until color television has undergone further experimentation and testing in the laboratory.

The majority of people who witnessed the specially broadcast program in Washington were quite enthusiastic over what they saw. Fruits, vegetables, clothing, printed maps, and other objects came through on the screen in a true reproduction of all their colors.

When the FCC resumes its hearings



IN "THE GREAT RUPERT" are "Schnozzle" Durante and the squirrel, whose name is Rupert.

on the question of color TV in the near future, CBS plans to present as part of its case the questionnaires that were filled out by viewers at the end of the recent color television broadcast. The questionnaires indicate that most of those who witnessed the special program think very highly of CBS' color television system.

British Elections

The political parties of Great Britain are making preparations for the forthcoming elections for a new parliament. As announced recently by Prime Minister Clement Attlee, the elections will take place February 23 and the new Parliament will convene March 1. Formal campaigning by the political parties is not supposed to start until February 3 but most candidates for the legislature have already begun to make speeches in the districts where they will stand for election.

Some observers believe that the Conservative Party will win a majority of the seats in Parliament. They argue that an increasing number of people have come to oppose the Labor government's health program and its nationalization of many of the country's basic industries.

Other observers disagree with this view, contending that the British Laborites have retained the support of most of the people who put them into office in the previous election of 1945. These commentators argue that a majority of the electorate has benefited materially from the Labor government's program and thus will keep this party in power.

Half Century Poll

Which "10 personalities of the first half of the 20th century affected the most persons to the greatest extent for good or for evil?"

This question was asked of 1500 American newspaper editors and radio commentators by the United Press. The names of the 10 were listed by those queried in the order of their relative importance. Here are the results of the survey:

1. Franklin D. Roosevelt
2. Adolph Hitler
3. Thomas A. Edison
4. Winston Churchill
5. Henry Ford
6. Nikolai Lenin
7. Wright Brothers
8. Albert Einstein
9. Joseph Stalin
10. Louis Pasteur

The same question was asked 23 New Yorkers prominent in public af-



THE MARCH OF DIMES GIRL for 1950 is Wanda Wiley, of Austin, Texas, whose picture appears on the 1950 March of Dimes posters. Don't let her down! The annual drive for funds to aid victims of infantile paralysis ends this year on January 31.



A LOAF OF BREAD. As a token gift, in recognition of our aid to Greece, Ambassador Vassili Dendramis presents the loaf to an American official of the agency that directs the European Recovery Program. The bread, baked in Greece, was made from flour in the millionth ton of American supplies to reach the country under the ERP.

fairs, science, education, religion and journalism. Their selections, in the order of importance, are as follows:

1. Franklin D. Roosevelt
2. Mahatma Gandhi
3. Albert Einstein
4. Adolph Hitler
5. Winston Churchill
6. Nikolai Lenin
7. Woodrow Wilson
8. Joseph Stalin
9. Wright Brothers
10. Guglielmo Marconi

How do you feel about this list? Which ten leaders of the first half century would you select? If enough replies to this question are received, we shall later publish a list based on the majority of the opinions expressed by our readers.

How Much Income?

In the last few weeks, there has been considerable discussion of President Truman's predictions concerning the size of our total national income in 1954 and again in the year 2000. According to the first prediction, the country will be turning out 300 billion dollars' worth of industrial and agricultural products by 1954, as compared with 259 billion dollars' worth in 1949. According to the second prediction, the value of our output in the year 2000 will be one trillion dollars, or about 4 times what it was last year.

The Chief Executive believes that his two forecasts will come true if all sections of the population cooperate with one another and with the government. He says that we have the capacity to increase our national income to the size he suggests, but that we can succeed in achieving such an increase only if we have the will to do so.

Some economists disagree with the opinion expressed by the President. They say that our economy is incapable of producing one trillion dollars' worth of goods, though it may be able to increase the national output to about 500 billion dollars.

Other economists assert that Mr. Truman's forecasts are not unrealistic

at all. They point out that between 1900 and 1950 our national income more than doubled and that there is no reason why even greater gains should not be made in the second half of this century.

Congress at Work

On the basis of the debates heard in Congress, many observers doubt whether more than about half of President Truman's legislative program will be enacted during the current session. Some observers, in fact, think that considerably less than half of Mr. Truman's proposals will be made into law before the legislature adjourns, probably early in the summer.

Of the major recommendations made by the President in his State of the

Union message, Congress is expected to adopt those calling for an expanded social security system, appropriations for the third year of the European Recovery Program, and funds for the celebrated Point Four program for aiding under-developed countries.

Our lawmakers are expected to defeat Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan's proposal to change the system of upholding the prices of farm products, any proposals to increase taxes, the St. Lawrence seaway and power project, the compulsory health insurance program, and the President's civil rights proposals. There is doubt over what Congress will do about the plan to extend federal aid to the nation's schools.

Most Washington commentators foresee a relatively short session this year. The entire House and one-third of the Senate are up for re-election in the fall, and Democrats as well as Republicans are eager to begin their campaigns for office as soon as possible.

Little Improvement

According to the *New York Times*, conditions in the nation's schools show only a slight improvement over what they were a year ago. The *Times* reports that many states still lack a sufficient number of teachers for both elementary and high schools though the greater shortage is at the elementary level. Other states are said to be still suffering from a lack of adequate classroom facilities.

The *Times* says that as a result of the continued crisis in our public school system, about 3 million youths are not at present receiving an adequate education. Some pupils attend classes in highly overcrowded rooms. Others go to school only part-time. Still others are taught by teachers who have inadequate training.

Most states are reported to be carrying out various programs to end the crisis in their educational systems. New York, for instance, is spending 95 million dollars on new schools.

—By DAVID BEILES.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

He: "What would you say if I told you that I had traveled one thousand miles through snow and ice with my dog team, just to see you?"

She: "I'd say that was a lot of mush."

★ ★ ★

Patient: "Doctor, can't you cure me of snoring? I snore so loudly I wake myself up."

Doctor: "In that case, I advise you to sleep in another room."

★ ★ ★

A cynic is one who doesn't care what happens so long as it doesn't happen to him.

★ ★ ★

Boss: "I hope that you try to save half of what you earn, young man."

Boy: "I don't make that much."

★ ★ ★

Small Boy: "Dad, the barometer has fallen."

Father: "Very much?"

Small Boy: "About six feet—it's broken."

★ ★ ★

Two little girls were playing in the park.

"What time is it?" asked one.

"I don't know," said her companion,

"but it isn't four yet. My mother told me to be home at four—and I'm not."

★ ★ ★

Drill Sergeant: "Wipe that opinion off your face."

★ ★ ★

"I wish to open an account."

"Certainly, madam. How much do you wish to deposit?"

"Nothing. I want to draw out \$40."



"Well, how do you like that? I've been sitting here 40 minutes thinking this was a jungle picture."

Magazines and Newspapers

"How Harmful Are Cigarettes?" by Roger William Riis, *Reader's Digest*, January 1950, page 1.

Doctors do not agree on how much smoking affects a person's health, but all their studies indicate that it does have some adverse effect, even among moderate smokers. Throat irritation is but one of the minor effects that can come from smoking. Cigarettes, by causing the walls of the stomach to contract, dull the sensation of hunger and often lead to bad eating habits. They also seem to create conditions that, at times, foster the development of ulcers.

Smokers are more susceptible to other diseases—heart trouble, cancer of the lung and mouth, and Buerger's disease (a loss of circulation in the feet and hands)—than are non-smokers. Few doctors will say that using cigarettes directly causes these diseases, but the ailments take a high toll among smokers.

"Strikes Settled While You Eat," by Jules Archer, *This Week*, January 8, 1950, page 6.

A Labor-Management-Citizens Committee in Stamford, Connecticut, has shown what can be done when the three groups which the committee represents try to work together. At luncheon meetings, held twice a month, members of the committee talk over long-range issues that lie ahead of capital and labor. They also take up grievances which one group may have against the other. When necessary the committee makes outside investigations of troublesome situations.

During the three years that the committee has been in existence, many strikes have been prevented, much bitterness and friction have been avoided, and the entire city of Stamford has benefited.

"Look Out, Here Comes an Avalanche!" by Harold Titus, *Saturday Evening Post*, January 7, 1950, page 20.

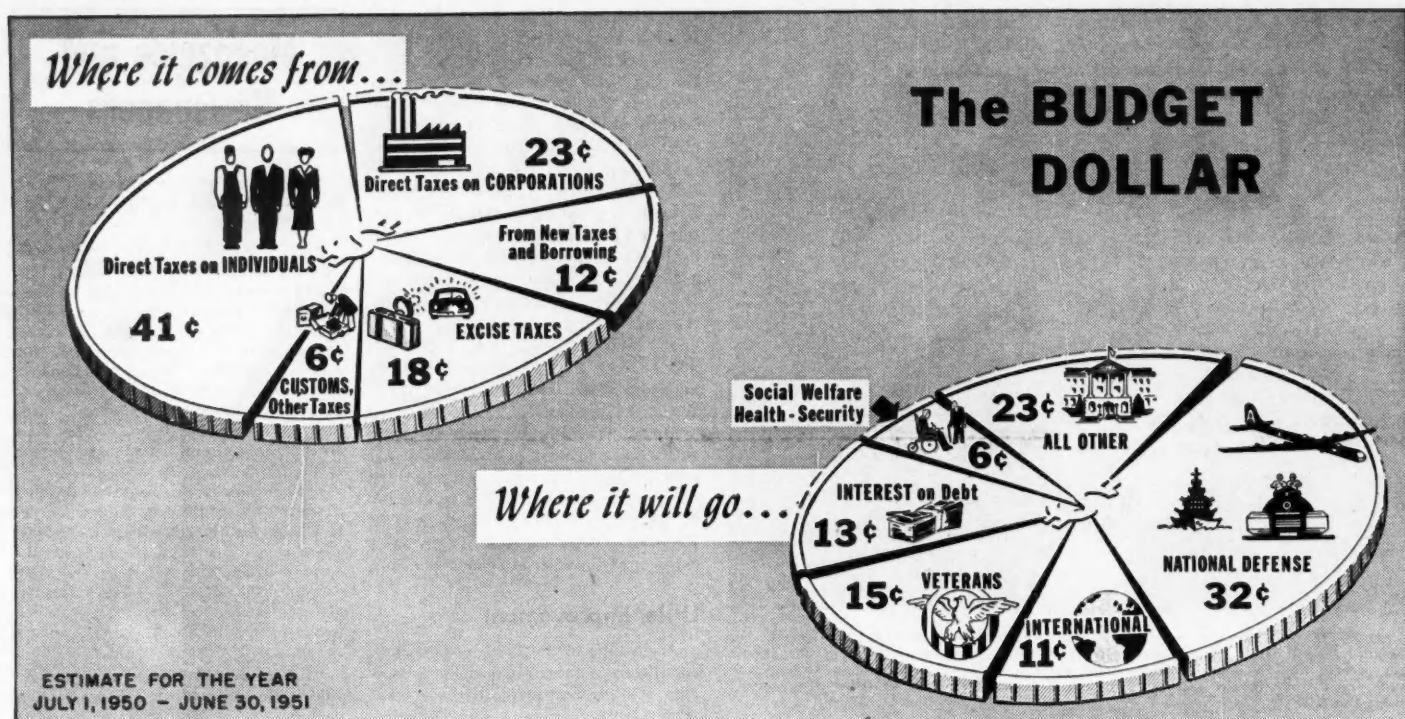
For 10 years the U. S. Forest Service has been learning how snowslides behave—and misbehave—at Alta, Utah. It is the first such research on our continent. Since skiing is now the country's No. 1 outdoor winter sport, it is becoming increasingly important to detect hazardous snow conditions on skiing slopes.

When attempting to forecast avalanche dangers, a number of factors must be appraised. These include snow depth and weight, wind direction, and temperature. When snow accumulations become serious at critical points, the snow ranger can block off the area to skiers and start the snow moving in any of a number of ways. Explosives are sometimes used to "set off" slides in danger areas high upon the slopes.

"99.6 Per Cent Loyalty," editorial comment in the *Washington Post*.

Figures from the FBI continue to affirm the loyalty of virtually all federal employees. Of more than 2,700,000 government workers investigated, 99.6 per cent have been shown not to have any Communist ties. The record indicates two facts: The overwhelming majority of federal workers are loyal Americans. Second, the Loyalty Board carried out its duties with moderation.

In the future, even more safeguards than now exist should be adopted to insure absolute fairness in the investigations. On a few occasions, irresponsible charges have been made against individuals. The possibility of having such charges made should be eliminated.



GOVERNMENT SPENDING. The chart shows where President Truman expects the government to get the money it needs next year, and how he would like to see the money spent.

U. S. Budget

(Concluded from page 1)

debates the President's proposals and acts upon them as it sees fit. As someone has remarked, "The President proposes, but Congress disposes."

In past years the lawmakers have not acted upon the recommendations all at once but have made them into a number of bills. This year for the first time Congress is planning to put its appropriations for the various government agencies together in one "package." This change is expected to simplify and speed up the work of the lawmakers.

The amount of money that the government will actually collect and spend in 1951 is not likely to be *exactly* what the President has estimated. In the first place, Congress almost always makes some initial changes in the recommendations. Secondly, unexpected developments—good or bad—between now and June 30, 1951, can require other changes.

For example, if the "cold war" in Europe and Asia should be intensified, we might have to spend more than we are now planning to do. Likewise, if the nation should have unusual prosperity in the months ahead, the government might receive a bigger income in the form of taxes than it is now counting on.

Subject for Debate

Nonetheless, the recommendations made by the President will receive careful consideration and will serve as a "starting point" for debate in Congress. Although some changes will be made, it is likely that in the long run the President's recommendations will be followed fairly closely. Thus, it is important to know how the vast sum of 42½ billion dollars requested by Mr. Truman is intended to be spent.

The largest slice will go for national defense. President Truman asks that about 13½ billion dollars go to our defense forces. This sum will be used to pay the men and women in the Army, Navy, and Air Force; to equip

them; to build new tanks, planes, and naval craft; and to carry on research programs. The President urged that the draft be extended.

The next largest sum—more than 6 billion dollars—will go to pay for war veterans' programs. These include disability pensions, medical care, educational benefits under the GI Bill of Rights, and so on.

Over 5½ billion dollars will go to pay the interest on money that the government has been forced to borrow in the past. Nearly all this debt, which now totals more than 256 billion dollars, was incurred in past wars when we had to borrow huge sums to meet abnormally heavy expenses.

The President recommends spending almost 5 billion dollars on various programs to aid other countries. These include the European Recovery Program, and the plan for military assistance to the Atlantic Pact nations. The 5-billion figure, although large, represents a reduction of almost 1¼ billion dollars in foreign aid from 1950.

Every one of the expenditures mentioned above is concerned with war—with paying for past wars or with making plans to avert future wars. The sums recommended for these purposes make up 71 per cent of the total spending program for 1951. This figure gives striking evidence of the extent to which wars burden the taxpayers of a nation.

In addition to the items mentioned, President Truman asked for about 12½ billion dollars to be expended on various other domestic programs. Included are aid to farmers, highway building, irrigation and reclamation projects, housing, public works, and others. Most of these programs are being continued from previous years.

The President again urged that the federal government provide assistance to the states to improve their school systems. He also asked that Congress provide 1 million dollars for a system of federal scholarships for deserving young people who otherwise would not be able to attend college.

The proposed spending total of 42½ billion dollars for 1951 is about 860

million dollars less than the outlay for the bookkeeping year of 1950. The expenditures recommended for 1951 average \$282 for every man, woman, and child in the United States.

Where will be government get the money to meet these vast expenses? Most income is from these sources: (1) individual income taxes; (2) taxes on corporations; (3) excise taxes, which are special levies on "luxury" products such as jewelry, furs, theater tickets, tobacco, and so forth; (4) customs duties paid on goods brought into this country.

Of these sources, the most important is the individual income tax. According to the President's estimates, more than 40 per cent of the government's income for 1951 will be in this form. Taxes on businesses will also make up a sizable source of revenue.

When the President submitted the budget to Congress, he indicated that he would recommend "moderate" tax increases to yield additional revenue in 1951. By the time these words appear, he may have sent a special message to Congress on the subject.

Borrowing Money

However, even if more taxes should be approved, it seems likely that the government may have to borrow money to close the gap between income and outgo. Having to depend on borrowing to run the government is known as "deficit financing." Whether or not such a policy is desirable at this time is the subject of a good deal of controversy.

The President and his supporters think that the present financial policy of the government is absolutely necessary. They point out that we are engaged in a world struggle between democracy and communism, and—as the most powerful of the democratic nations—we must play a major role in that struggle. This means—it is said—that for the time being we must continue various foreign aid programs. And meanwhile we cannot ignore vital domestic programs.

As soon as we have achieved a more peaceful world, then—the argument goes—we can cut down on our spend-

ing and achieve a balanced budget. In other words, even though we are living "beyond our means" right now, our present spending program is by no means a "spendthrift" one. It has been carefully worked out, and eventually we will be able to make up the deficits that we are now accumulating.

On the other hand, most of the Republican members of the Congress, as well as some of the Democrats, think that the financial policies indicated in the President's budget message are unwise. They say that we just cannot continue to spend more than we collect year after year. If so, we will never get out of debt.

Less Spending

Most members of this group think that we should spend less. While it is generally agreed that the government of the United States has taken over unusual responsibilities in the postwar world, it is felt by many that certain expenses could be pared down to get our total spending at the same level as our income.

Some critics of the President's program think that we can't cut our spending but believe that the government's income could be increased. They think that the American people are prosperous enough to afford additional taxes, and that the government should increase taxes still more in order to bring about a balanced budget.

Although the federal budget touches the wallet or bank account of every American and has far-reaching effects on the nation's economy, it has seldom received the attention that it merits from the average citizen. The reason is not so much lack of interest as the fact that the budget is extremely long and complicated.

This year the government is taking steps to make the budget understandable to the average citizen. For the first time it is putting out a special condensation, well illustrated with graphic charts. Entitled "The Budget in Brief," the 40-page pamphlet may be obtained for 20 cents from the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

Science News

High school students who would like to learn the fundamentals of atomic energy first-hand will be interested in the diagrams for making Geiger counters, published by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

The gadgets are simple to make, and they will detect radiation almost as well as laboratory models. They resemble homemade radio sets, draw their power from two flashlight batteries, and may be assembled from parts available in an ordinary radio supply store. The total cost of the parts is about \$40.

Science teachers may obtain diagrams of the Geiger counters from the New York Operations Office, Atomic Energy Commission, 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City.

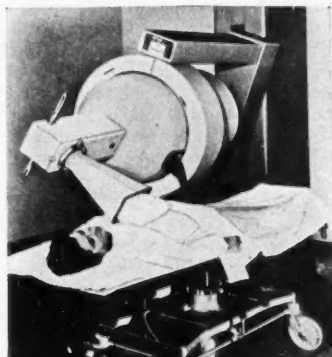
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Last year, scientific expeditions roamed every continent of the globe, the National Geographic Society reports. They also studied ocean depths and atmospheric heights.

Among the interesting results was the unearthing of fossils in Colombia which will give scientists a clear picture of prehistoric animals in South America. In southern Turkey, a tablet bearing an inscription in the Phoenician language will give translators a key for deciphering other tablets found in that country.

The U. S. Coast Guard continued its mapping of Alaska, while the Royal Canadian Air Force charted great areas of northern Canada. A number of countries sent expeditions to the Antarctic in an effort to set up permanent bases there.

And while the U. S. Navy started a survey of the "floor" of the Atlantic, astronomers on Palomar Mountain in California began taking pictures for a sky atlas.



THE MAXITRON 250. This X-ray machine provides a wider range of radiation than has ever before been available from a single unit. Engineers say it is the first that can be used for both minor skin treatment and for deep cancer therapy. It was introduced at the annual convention of the Radiological Society of North America, in Cleveland.

Experiments are being made in England to perfect automobile tires that will be filled with water instead of air. A trucking company, carrying out the experiments, says that the new tires allow vehicles to pull heavier loads than before, and reduce wheel spinning, and skidding. The rear tires on the trucks are filled with water which contains calcium chloride. Tests also show that the water-filled tires wear longer than those filled with air.

—By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.



DENMARK is a seafaring nation. This canal permits ships to come right into the center of Copenhagen, the capital, to unload cargo.

Danish Valentines

Peninsula Country Has a High Standard of Living and Its People Find Time for Many Gay Celebrations

FEBRUARY 14 is *Gaekkebrev* or "joking letter" day, in Denmark. On this day, when we exchange valentines, the Danish young people send funny letters to one another.

The letters are written in verse, and signed in code. Mystery dots spell out the sender's name. If the receiver guesses the name, he is entitled to a reward of candy. But, if he fails to guess the signature, he (or she) must make a gift to the sender.

Getting acquainted in Denmark is quite easy for Americans, because so many Danes speak English. They speak Swedish and Norwegian, and often German and French as well—for they are among the best educated people in Europe. Compulsory schooling, to the age of 14, has been the rule for 200 years. The University of Copenhagen, founded in 1479, is one of Europe's best.

The Danes carry on their education in after school years, too. There are night schools for adults, and there are excellent libraries. These libraries are linked in one system, so that a Dane can borrow a book from any library in the country no matter where he lives.

Denmark was once a very powerful nation. King Canute, famous in legend as the man who commanded the waves of the sea to roll back, conquered England in 1015. Later Danish kings, in the 12th and 13th centuries, held power over Sweden and Norway. But, in subsequent wars, Danish power waned.

The country today is made up of a large peninsula and 500 islands—16,575 square miles in all. The peninsula, Jutland, is a part of the European mainland, and borders Germany on the south. Only about 100 of the islands are inhabited. Most of them are located between Jutland and Sweden, at the entrance to the Baltic Sea. The capital city, Copenhagen, is on the large island of Zealand.

Three fourths of the land is used for farming, which employs about one

fourth of the population. Danish bacon, ham, butter, and eggs are famous in Europe. During the war, when Germany occupied Denmark, the Nazis took most of this food production. Now, in peacetime, England is the biggest buyer.

Denmark is also an important industrial nation, with manufactured goods making up about a third of her export trade. Ships, Diesel motors, furniture in modern style, and high quality dishes and glassware are among the manufactured products. Shipping and the sale of services by Denmark's excellent civil engineers are other sources of income.

The government is a democratic monarchy under King Frederick. Women have the right to vote, and are prominent in government.

Social security is well advanced in Denmark, with unemployment, health and medical insurance, and old-age pensions. The government oversees the social security programs. Real control, however, is exercised by the people who get the benefits. Medical care, for example, is managed through "sick clubs." The members of these clubs elect their own administrators and choose their own doctors.

All in all, the Danes are very proud of their country. American tourists, on a visit, are almost certain to like it, too.—By THOMAS F. HAWKINS.



DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY CRAIG

Study Guide

Federal Budget

1. What period is known as the fiscal year 1951 for the federal government?
2. Approximately what amount does President Truman estimate the government should spend during that year? What sum, according to his estimates, will be collected in revenues?
3. Who has the final decision on the federal budget?
4. What program, under the President's proposed budget, would receive the largest slice of the budget?
5. Where does the government get the money needed to meet its expenses?
6. What is meant by "deficit financing"?
7. Give arguments for following a plan of deficit financing during the next fiscal year. What are the arguments against such a plan?

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not think the President's budget, taken as a whole, is sound? Explain your answer.
2. On what programs do you think the federal government should spend more than it is now spending? What programs do you think might be reduced or eliminated?

Asiatic Problem

1. Why is the island of Formosa a trouble-spot at this time?
2. What is the official U.S. policy, as announced by President Truman, concerning the defense of Formosa?
3. Give the arguments of those who think we should switch our formal recognition and diplomatic connections from Chiang to Mao.
4. How are these arguments met by people who oppose our dealing with the Chinese Communists?
5. What question concerning China is now raging in the United Nations?
6. In what way does it seem likely that the U. S. will help some of China's neighbors resist communism?

Discussion

1. What policy, in your opinion, should the United States follow in regard to recognizing the Communist government of China? Explain.
2. Do you or do you not approve of the stand President Truman has taken on the question of defending Formosa? Give reasons for your answer.

Miscellaneous

1. Which party do you think will win the general elections in Great Britain next month? Why?
2. What does President Truman predict our national income will be in the year 2000?
3. List two of President Truman's proposals that are expected to be defeated during the current session of Congress.
4. Why do observers believe that the current Congressional session will be a short one?
5. Give two important reasons why many schools still do not provide an adequate education for their students.

References

"Rebuilding Our Policy in Asia," by Owen Lattimore, *Atlantic Monthly*, January 1950. Proposals by a well-known authority on the Far East.

"Gigantic Questions for Mao—and For Us, Too," by Henry R. Lieberman, *New York Times Magazine*, January 1, 1950. Problems arising from the Communist conquest of China.

Pronunciations

Mao Tse-tung—mou dzū-dōng
 Chiang Kai-shek—jyahng ki-shék (y as in yes)
 Formosa—for-mó'suh
 Viet Nam—vē-ēt' nahm'
 Thailand—tī'länd
 Gaekkebrev—gék'-uh-brave
 Wafdist—wahf'dista

Careers for Tomorrow - - In the World of Music

YOUNG people with musical talent are at some time faced with this question: "Shall I make music my career?" The decision is a hard one. A successful career as a concert virtuoso, or as a member of a symphony or popular orchestra, has rewards that few other fields offer.

There may be fame and, if not fortune, at least a comfortable income. There are also interesting contacts to be made, and there is the constant challenge of trying to improve one's technique.

These dreams, however, must be tempered by reality. Actually music offers encouraging vocational prospects to only a few exceptionally talented persons. Nerve, determination, a certain feeling for showmanship—in addition to musical ability that is far above average—are absolutely necessary for success on the concert stage or in an orchestra.

The prospects are just about as discouraging for musicians who want to teach privately. The private teacher in the average community often finds it hard to make a secure and comfortable living. Some seem to attract a large number of pupils in bad times as well as in good. But many others, apparently as well qualified as the successful ones, have a hard time financially.

The most promising branch of music—from the standpoint of a full-time career—is that in the public schools. More and more attention is being given to music instruction in the schools, and there is a growing demand for teachers who can lead choral



A MUSICIAN must spend long hours in practice

work, train bands and orchestras, and give private instruction.

The colleges and universities—both public and private—also offer numerous opportunities to instrumentalists and vocalists who are qualified to teach.

Musicians begin their study at an early age, and by the time they reach high school they should have acquired some skill in their particular field. Those who want to try for a concert career should go on with their study—giving as much time as possible to it. They can also gain experience by taking part in whatever music contests

are open to them. Somewhere along the way, they should arrange for that final test which is necessary for them in deciding whether or not they can go on professionally—they should arrange to play for some qualified musician in the concert field. Musicians who have already reached the top can tell very quickly whether or not a young person's talent is an exceptional one.

Concert musicians receive most of their training from private instructors, in their own communities and in the large musical centers of the country. This study is expensive, and to

make the most of it a young musician must practice long hours every day.

Persons who want to teach in the public schools or in colleges or universities should plan either to go to college or to study at a music conservatory. In either case they will develop their own musicianship and, at the same time, will learn teaching techniques.

Concert musicians' incomes depend upon their general popularity. Those who become widely known usually receive very high fees for their performances. They must, however, meet their operating costs—including travel expenses and the commissions paid their managers. Musicians in orchestras often earn from \$50 to \$150 or more a week.

Music teachers in schools may make from \$1,800 a year to \$3,600 a year, while the head of a music department in a university or college may earn \$5,000 or more.

While this discussion has painted a rather dark picture of music as a career, young people with talent should not be too discouraged by it. There are opportunities for those with ability and determination. And there is limitless pleasure in music as a hobby.

A booklet called "Occupational Guide, Professional Musicians" can be obtained from the Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission, Employment Service Division, 7310 Woodward Avenue, Detroit 2, Michigan. The booklet costs 25¢. It is chiefly concerned with Detroit, but can be useful to young musicians elsewhere. —By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Historical Backgrounds - - - How Our Budget Has Grown

IT takes a lot of money to run a large, powerful nation. The cost of operating our national government is now 7,400 times what it was in 1789. A study of how this increase came about, from year to year, gives a good idea of our history.

Much of this startling rise in government spending is explained by the growth of our country—from 13 to 48 states, and from 4 to 150 million in population. As we grew, our needs increased. We needed more and better roads, especially after the coming of the automobile in 1900. We needed a faster and bigger postal service. We needed dams for water power, and canals and trenches to turn desert lands into farms by irrigation.

The national government undertook to provide many of these necessities, so costs grew. Defending our nation and fighting wars has taken billions of dollars. Moreover, in the past 20 years, our government has greatly increased its help to individuals—by old-age pensions, unemployment benefits, payments to farmers to maintain crop prices, and so forth.

Cost Per Person

For all these projects, the national government will spend next year about \$282 for each man, woman and child. In 1869, it spent only \$1.44 per person.

In 1789, federal expenses totaled only 5¼ million dollars. We owed about 50 million dollars, then, mostly to France and Holland for help during the Revolutionary war. Interest on

that debt took over 45 per cent of the budget. Military expenditures took about 40 per cent. We used only \$82,000 for soldiers' and sailors' pensions. All other expenses were only \$865,000.

By 1850, government outgo was 34 million dollars a year. Military costs took two-thirds of this. Pension payments had risen to 1½ million dollars. For the first time, our postal services failed to make a profit. Government funds made up the loss of \$195,000. General expenses took 9 million dollars, or just over 27 per cent of the total budget.

By 1865, as a result of the Civil War, our government was paying out more than 600 million dollars a year. The national debt increased to more than 2½ billion dollars. Yearly in-

terest on it was over 34 million, or about 6 times the entire federal outlay in 1789!

Costs dropped after the war, and went as low as 255 million in 1880. Our national debt was cut in half. From that time on, however, the government gradually increased its expenses. It spent more and more on developing our soil, forest, and other natural resources.

Not until 1917 did the federal government spend as much as a billion dollars in a peacetime year. Our entry into World War I marked the beginning of federal spending on a huge scale. Total expenditures were 13 billion in 1918, almost 85 per cent of it for the armed forces. The figure was 18½ billion in 1919. We were

borrowing heavily, and owed over 24 billion dollars by 1920.

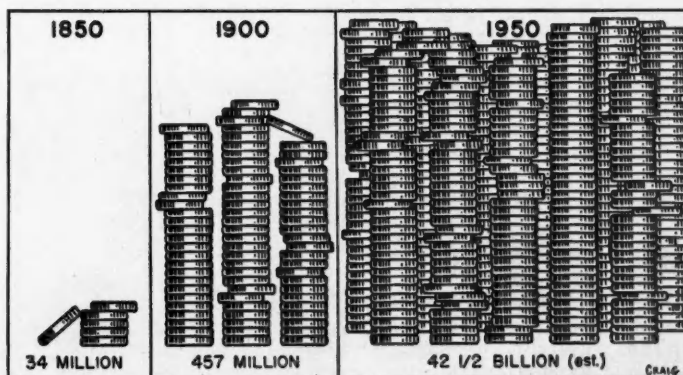
After World War I, we pushed down the costs of government, largely by reducing spending on armaments. Our yearly budgets for 1925 to 1928 averaged about 3½ billion dollars, and about a third of the total sum was for general expenses of government and for peacetime benefits to the country.

Programs Expanded

With the election of President Roosevelt in 1932, these peacetime benefits were greatly increased. Road-building and other public works projects to provide jobs, old-age pensions, and unemployment allowances were among these. In 1937, these programs made up 70 per cent of the 8-billion-dollar budget.

World War II pushed spending to an all-time high, to over 100 billion in 1945. It has dropped, in peacetime, to the present 42½ billion. We now have a national debt of 256 billion dollars. Next year this debt is expected to be increased by 5 billion—since taxes and other government income are not enough to pay our way at the present rate of spending.

Every day nearly 100 Russians are said to flee from the Soviet Union into western Europe. The Soviet government has increased its guard units—especially at ports along the Baltic Sea—to try to keep Russians with technical skill or with information about Russian submarine bases from leaving the country.



HOW COSTS OF GOVERNMENT have increased in the past 100 years